

Calling all heroes

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"It is an immense privilege to be alive at this time." Those are the words Alice Major, a poet [focused on humanity and climate change](#), used to describe our role in a day and age where the future seems doomed. I don't know about you, but they hit home for me.

As citizens of the world, in the year 2019, we alone hold the power to change the course of history. To create a clean, healthy future for our children and grandchildren. To develop reliable energy and launch new industries. To work together to solve climate change.

It is our **privilege**. It is within our power. And we know what Spiderman would say about that: ***"With great power (privilege), comes great responsibility."***

So today, I am inviting you to join a new league of heroes, living here in Natick. This weekend, at [Natick Days](#) (now on Sunday!), the Sustainability Committee will launch a new

planning process focused on achieving net zero emissions by 2050. We'll have capes, hero masks for kids to color, and Dr. Smog will be on site and ready for battle. We *may* even have free hero swag. But, more importantly, **we will be asking you to be a [Net Zero Hero](#).**

What does it mean to be a Net Zero Hero? It means committing to:

- **Sharing** your feedback/ideas as we develop the Net Zero Plan (via an online survey this fall and a workshop this spring)
- **Advocating** for the adoption of a Net Zero Plan, once finalized, with Town officials
- **Participating in and promoting** the Plan's recommended actions (these could include increasing the amount of renewable energy in our electricity aggregation, planting more trees, providing incentives for electric vehicles, etc.)

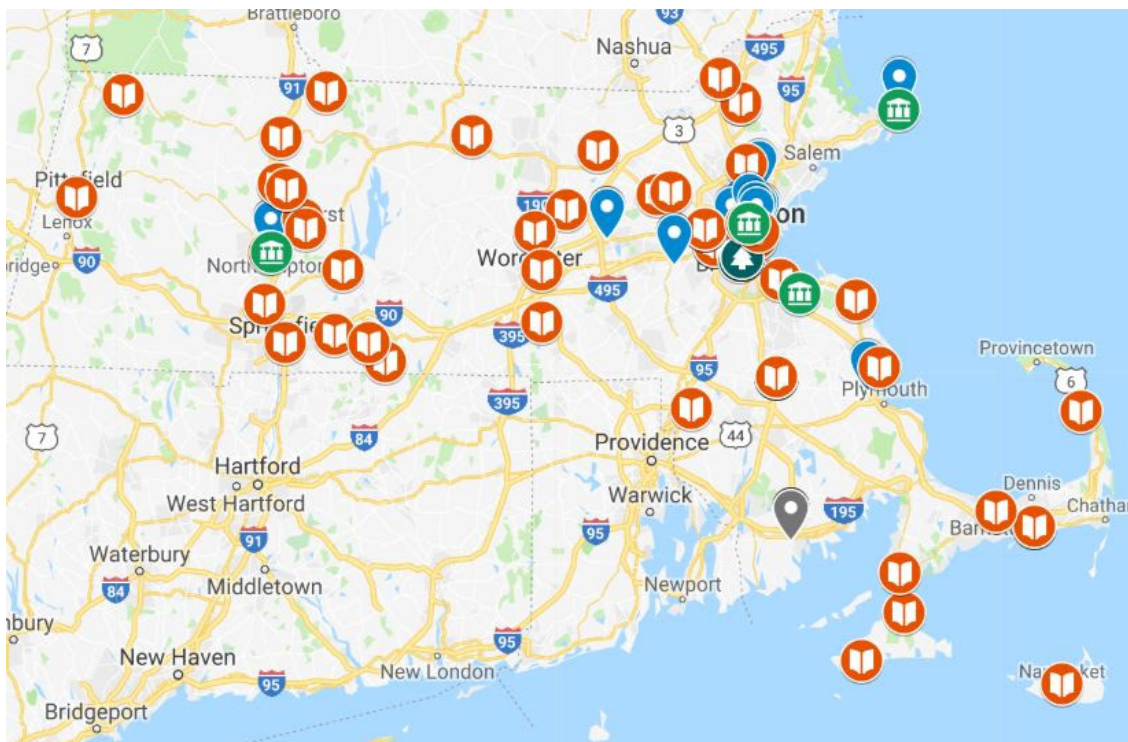
Will you answer our call for heroes? Sign up at Natick Days or [online here](#) and we'll be in touch soon with information about our first mission.

Let's do this!

- Jillian, your local Sustainability Coordinator/hero in training

PS: Shout out to Natick Center Associates for donating a tent to the Sustainability Committee! Come see it at Natick Days!

You're Invited: A Climate Conversation



What will climate change look like in Natick? Join local leaders working on climate change

for a conversation about what causes climate change, how it affects you, and what you can do to limit its impacts.

The event is happening on Wednesday, September 25 at 7pm at the Community Senior Center in conjunction with the MA [Climate Preparedness Week](#) and [Climate Action Week NYC](#).

Speakers will include:

- Rev. Vernon Walker, program manager at [Communities Responding to Extreme Weather \(CREW\)](#)
- Jay Turner, Natick resident, professor at Wellesley College and author of a new book [The Republican Reversal: Conservatives and the Environment from Nixon to Trump](#)
- Jillian Wilson Martin, Natick's sustainability coordinator

The panel will be moderated by [Leo Ryan](#), the Chair of Natick's Sustainability Committee and a leader in clean tech and renewable energy solutions. We hope to see you there!

[RSVP Here](#)

Meet the Peanut Butter to my Jelly



Jane Ellen Newman is officially **our part-time** [School Recycling Coordinator](#)!

Jane Ellen is a local hero who is passionate about the environment, experienced in stakeholder engagement and grant writing, and has the special sauce we need to increase recycling and reduce trash in Natick Public Schools. In addition to her new role as our School Recycling Coordinator, she serves as the part-time Community Relations liaison at the library, so you're bound to run into her around town.

Jane Ellen has three main goals this year:

- 1) Benchmark NPS' existing practices and develop a plan to reduce solid waste
- 2) Pilot 1-3 new programs across the district
- 3) Apply for funding to support new recycling programs

NPS was awarded a [grant from MassDEP](#) to help Jane Ellen achieve her first goal and we will be receiving up to 80 hours of staff support from a DEP recycling coach to conduct waste audits at each of our schools. To complete this work, we will also be looking for volunteers to help. Stay tuned for more details from Jane Ellen soon!

Greening Pond St - and Every Street



Yay grants! Natick was also recently awarded a [grant](#) to develop a community-wide green street design guide/policy and a specific design for Pond Street, which [drains into three local water bodies: Lake Cochituate, Fiske Pond, and Dug Pond](#).

As part of the project, the Town of Natick will work with the Charles River Watershed

Association to develop the guides, which will include maintenance considerations and staff from Natick's Public Works Engineering Division will contribute to this project by leading necessary survey work.

Ultimately, we anticipate the project will enable our Engineering Division to better evaluate and apply green infrastructure projects along Pond Street and other roadway improvement projects throughout Natick in a more structured and meaningful way.

PS: Article 19 at 2019 Fall Town Meeting is also focused on stormwater and how we can better manage and regulate runoff. More details to come in next month's newsletter!

Save the Date for these Sustainability Events



Get your planner out because this fall we have a *lot* of climate-related events on the calendar. Please save these dates:

- **Sept 16:** How to Read Your Energy Bills, 10am at the Community Senior Center
- **Sept 19:** Renewable Natick Social, 6-9pm at the Lookout Farm Taproom
- **Sept 25:** Climate Conversations, 7-8:30pm at the Community Senior Center
- **Oct 12:** Backyard Composting 101, 7pm at the Community Senior Center
- **Oct 17:** Green New Deal Town Hall (more to come!)
- **Oct 19:** Shred Fest! - Secure Paper Shredding & Recycling, 9am-12pm on the Common
- **Nov 12:** Compost & Cookies, with a talk from Black Earth Compost's founder, 7-8:30pm at the Morse Institute Library

Bring Bottle Filling Stations to the Morse Institute Library



Are you tired of hearing about [WaterSmart](#)? Me too! The sooner the whole Town signs up for it, the sooner I can stop emailing you about it.

Until then, we are hosting a new WaterSmart Challenge with the Morse Institute Library! For a limited time, **everyone who signs up to register for WaterSmart at the library ([or online here](#)) receives a free water bottle and - if 500 people sign up - the Morse Institute Library will receive a free water bottle filling station!**

We need your help to earn the Morse Institute that precious bottle filling station and to keep WaterSmart out of future newsletters. Will you tell your friends about WaterSmart? Will you?! Please?

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